is now applied to another *Alevonota*; indeed all four of our species have undergone changes of name, a fact that must be borne in mind in considering the old records.

When recording *A. aurantiaca* from Box Hill (two under a stone, iv.37) as the first find since Champion's — the site was only some hundreds of yards from that of my recent capture (1937, *Ent. Rec.* **49**: 136-7), I was unaware that the latter collector had also taken it at Guildford in the same county — several on one occasion by evening sweeping (*Ent. mon. Mag.*, ref. not to hand). It was taken also by Harwood, in the 1930s, in moss and by evening sweeping at Hambledon Hill, Blandford (Dorset), once in numbers (unpublished). The only other captures known to me are of one by the late J.L. Henderson in his garden at Purley, Surrey (1945, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **81**: 63, 65), and another by Mr D. Appleton at Portsdown, S. Hants (27.iii.73). *A. aurantiaca* appears to be exclusively confined to the chalk in Britain.

Another species of this scarce subterranean genus, *A. gracilenta* Er. (=*splendens* Kr.), is less seldom encountered than the last, but, unlike it, seems to occur almost invariably by single specimens. Since finding one at Windsor in 1939 (1940, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **76**: 32), I met with it on four occasions between 1958 and 1965 in my former garden at Blackheath by sweeping a lawn in warm afternoon sunshine; and lastly, one at Swanscombe, N.W. Kent, swept in a chalkpit, 29.v.69 — apparently a fairly typical habitat. I have seen one taken by Mr N. Holford on his garden lawn at Portsmouth, 25.ix.62. It will be seen from the above that *A. gracilenta* appears to have temporarily become a little less rare round about the 1960s, but I have heard of no further capture since my 1969 one. It was unrepresented in the Harwood collection; Donisthorpe's specimen was swept on the downs at Findon near Worthing (? unpublished).

A. rufotestacea Kr. (=*elegantula* Bris., *atricapilla* auct.), the least rare of our species but still extremely uncommon, I have taken only twice, in West Kent: one in the Thames Estuary area (as already recorded), and two in Darenth Wood (swept 6.v.60). The later capture adds one more to the very long list of rarities from that classic locality. Judging by those given in Fowler (*l.c. supra*) this should be rather especially a Surrey insect, but in later times has occurred more often in the New Forest (e.g. to P. Harwood and D. Appleton).— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

Examples of late and partial second and third broods of moths in the autumn of 1990 in the Isle of Wight.

1990 was the warmest year since the middle of the seventeenth century and had a prolonged hot summer and warm autumn similar to that of 1989. February and March also experienced above average temperatures and there was a considerable migration of butterflies and moths along the south coast in March. June was the only month which fell out of line being cool

and cloudy but with below average rainfall.

As in 1989 there were a considerable number of second and third broods in the late summer and autumn some of which deserve special mention.

For the second year running there was a partial second brood of *Agrotis trux lunigera* Steph. when one was taken at Niton on 18th September. Evidence of this brood is not mentioned in any of the classic entomological literature. The late records of *Cucullia umbratica* Linn. (23rd August) and *Cryphia domestica* Hufn. could possibly be late emergents but since the season was so forward it is more likely that these were examples of a partial second brood. A very darkly marked specimen of *Scopula marginepunctata* Goeze was taken on 18th October and this would seem to be evidence of a third brood.

Amongst the Pyralid moths the unusual broods of the following species are not mentioned in Goater (*British Pyralid moths*) and are therefore worthy of mention. Second brood examples of *Hypsopygia costalis* Fabr. (3rd October); *Eurrhypara hortulata* Linn. (5th October) and *Pleuroptya ruralis* Scop. (18th October) and third brood examples of *Pyrausta ostrinalis* Hübn. (12th September) and *Pyrausta cespitalis* D. & S. (19th September) are all exceptional dates.

Below are given, in chronological order, a list of the latest date for individual species in the Isle of Wight from late August to mid-November. In parentheses after each species is the locality (C = Chale Green; F = Freshwater; N = Niton; Q = Queen's Bower) and presumptive brood (2 = second; 3 = third):

August 23rd *Colostygia pectinataria* Knoch. (C,2); *Dypterygia scabriuscula* L. (C,2); *Cucullia umbratica* L. (C,2). 27th *Laothoe populi* L. (F,2).

September 1st *Epirrohe alternata* Mull. (C,2); *Abrostola triplasia* L. (C,2). 2nd *A. trigemina* Wern. (F,2). 3rd *Cabera exanthemata* Scop. (C,3). 6th *Gymnoscelis rufifasciata* Haw. (C,3). 7th *Axylia putris* L. (C,2). 8th *Spilosoma luteum* Hufn. (F,2). 10th *Cryphia domestica* Hufn. (F,2). 12th *Diachrysia chrysitis* L. (C,2); *Pyrausta ostrinalis* Hbn. (F,3). 16th *Camptogramma bilineata* L. (F,2). 18th *Agrotis trux lunigera* Steph. (N,2). 19th *Pyrausta cespitalis* D. & S. (F,3). 22nd *Idaea aversata* L. (F,2). 26th *Agrotis exclamationis* L. (C,2); *Hadena bicruris* Hufn. (C,2). 30th *Lacanobia oleracea* L. (F,2).

October 3rd *Hypsopygia costalis* Fab. (F,2). 5th *Eurrhypara hortulata* L. (C,2). 9th *Xanthorhoe fluctuata* L. (Q,3). 15th *Peribatodes rhomboidaria* D. & S. (F,2). 18th *Scopula marginepunctata* Goeze (F,3); *Pleuroptya ruralis* Scop. (F,2). 19th *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L. (F,2). 20th *Hypena proboscidalis* L. (F,2).

November 10th *Xestia c-nigrum* L. (F,2). 12th *Hoplodrina ambigua* D. & S. (F,C,3). 13th *Agrotis puta* Hbn. (F,3).

My thanks to S. Colenutt, P.J. Cramp and N. Holland for their invaluable records.—S.A. KNILL-JONES, 2 School Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.